(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) After the construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam on river Ravi, India is in a position to utilize most of the Ravi water.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Oyer the years, India has built storage dams on the rivers Sutluj, Beas and Ravi. Stage-I of Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) and Sidhmukh Nohar Project of Rajasthan are mostly complete. Stage-ll of IGNP (Rajasthan) and Shahpur Kandi Barrage are in various stages of construction. On completion of all such project including Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal, India shall be in a position to utilize most of the waters of these rivers.

Increase in deposits of scheduled commercial banks

*189. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deposits of scheduled commercial banks have increased in the recent past despite low interest rate given to depositors;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest for depositors in near future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) Since October, 1997 the interest rate structure of the commercial banks bas been deregulated.

(ii) Except for savings banks deposit, banks are given full freedom to determine interest rate on domestic term deposits of less than Rs. 15 lakhs with a maturity of 15 days and above as well as for deposit size of Rs. 15 lakh and above with a maturity of 7 days and above.

(iii) Banks are also given the freedom to offer fixed or floating rates on term deposits linked to an anchor rate with the approval of their respective Boards. Savings bank deposit rate is, however, determined by the RBI from time to time.

Development of Trivandrum International Airport

*191 SHRI N.K. PREMACHNDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition process for the development of Trivandrum International Airport has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the development/construction activities of new terminal would be completed;

(c) whether any foreign airlines have offered to conduct new services from Trivandrum International Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Govenment have taken any decision in the matter so far; and

(e) what is the present status of the proposal of starting Cannoor Airport in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are plans to construct a new international terminal complex at the Chackai canal side at Trivandrum Airport subject to required land being acquired and handed over by the State Government free of cost and free of all encumbrances.

(c) and (d) No request is pending from any foreign airlines for Trivandrum as a point of call.

(e) A Committee appinted to look into a number of relevant issues like technical feasibility, safety of operations, financial viability of the project has submitted its recommendations which is under examination.